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## (54) IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO DISPLAY APPARATUS

(71) We, MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD., a Japanese Company, of 1006 Kadoma, Osaka, Japan, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to display apparatus and more particularly to scanning means for a matrix type display panel. The invention makes possible a scanning apparatus capable of reproducing moving, half-tone images on a matrix display panel. A matrix panel is one in which a multiplicity of picture elements are located at the inter-sections of X(horizontal) and Y(vertical) line conductors. In order to reproduce images on such panels from image information signals, it is necessary to use scanning that selects X- and Ylines in an appropriate manner, to actuate the elements at the selected intersections. The brightness of the picture elements is modulated by varying the energy of the applied pulses in accordance with the image information signals.

The invention includes from one aspect a scanning apparatus for line by line scanning of an X-Y matrix display means comprising an X-line selecting means, and Y-line drive means adapted to operate in response to picture element signals, wherein during one complete line scan said Y-line drive means operate to control the image intensity of all the elements of the X-line selected by said X-line selecting means a plurality of times.

In an embodiment of the invention, to be described, the scanning apparatus controls element brightness by digital means, conveniently in integrated circuit form. A scanning apparatus including means for digitally controlling the brightness of a matrix panel is described in our copending application No. 29058/71 (Serial No. 1,352,889).

The invention includes from another aspect a scanning apparatus for a matrix display panel having a plurality of picture elements at the intersections of X- and Y-line conductors, said scanning apparatus comprising: line driving circuit coupled to said X-line conductors to be scanned in predetermined sequence; a Y-line driving circuit coupled to said Y-line conductors; a video signal generator for generating vidio signals; a timing signal generator coupled to said video signal generator, said X-line driving circuit and said Y-line driving circuit; a width control signal generator coupled to said timing signal generator for generating plural sets of width control signals; a first switching circuit coupled between said width control signal generator and said Y-line driving circuit for selecting which one of said plural sets of width control signals is to be supplied to said Y-line driving circuit at any instant; and an analogue-to-digital converter coupled between said video signal generator and said Y-line driving circuit for converting said video signals into parallelcoded video signals which are supplied to said Y-line driving circuit, wherein said Y-line driving circuit comprises; plural sets of first memory circuits for sequentially storing the portions of said parallel-coded video signals corresponding to one horizontal line period; a set of second memory circuits for holding parallel-coded video signals which are supplied from one of said plural sets of first memory circuits; a set of second switching circuits coupled between said plural sets of first memory circuits and said set of second memory circuits for connecting one of said plural sets of first memory circuits to said set of second memory circuits at any instant; and a set of brightness control circuits coupled between said set of second memory circuits and said Y-line conductors for supplying Yline driving pulses to said Y-line conductors, wherein said first switching circuit and said

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[Price 33p]

set of second switching circuits are both switched plural times during one horizontal line period in synchronisation with switching signals from said timing signal generator so that said Y-line driving pulses are changed plural times during one horizontal line period in response to both said plural sets of width control signals and said parallel-coded video signals held in said set of second memory circuits.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect embodiments thereof, given by way of example, will now be described with reference to the

accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a scanning apparatus for a matrix panel display;

Figure 2 is a circuit diagram of a set of brightness control circuits, a switching circuit,

and associated circuits;

Figure 3 is a timing diagram showing shift, set and width control signals, and the relation between brightness levels and width control signals in a scanning apparatus as shown in Figure 1. 25

Figure 4 is a block diagram of another form

of scanning apparatus:
Figure 5 is a timing diagram relating to the scanning apparatus shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a diagram showing the relation between brightness levels and video signal for the scanning apparatus of Figure 4.

In Figure 1, a scanning apparatus for a mat-rix panel 1 comprises an X-line drive circuit 2, a Y-line drive circuit 3, a video signal generator 4, a timing signal generator 5, an analogue-to-digital converter 6, a width control signal generator 7 and a switching circuit 8. The timing signal generator 5 supplies the Xline drive circuit 2, the Y-line drive circuit 3, and the width control signal generator 7 with timing signals, such as vertical and horizontal synchronising signals, set signals, shift signals and switching signals, over connections

shown in Figure 1.

The matrix panel is of the crossed grid type with a multiplicity of picture elements in a matrix form defined at the intersections of X- and Y-line conductors Xj, Yj. The matrix panel can be of any suitable type such as an electroluminescent panel, an array of lightemitting diodes or a plasma display panel.

The X-line drive circuit 2 comprises an X-

line selecting circuit 20 controlling a set of pulse generators 2—1 2—2, . . . 2—n.

The Y-line drive circuit 3 comprises a first

memory MEM 1 including two groups of circuits A and B, a second memory MEM 2, including a group of circuits, a first switching circuit SW1 and a set of brightness control circuits BC composed of a plurality of AND gates and Y-line drivers.

The operation of the present scanning apparatus will be described in conjunction with Figures 1, 2 and 3; the video signal will be assumed to be 6-bit parallel-coded signals, which may be converted from a standard television signal in analogue-to-digital converter 6.

In scanning the X-lines, the X-line conductors to be scanned are selected by X-line selecting circuit 20, in predetermined sequence in response to horizontal synchronising signals from timing signal generator 5, and pulses from the selected pulse generator are fed to the X-line conductor.

For scanning the Y-lines video signals from the video signal source 4 are fed to the analogue-to-digital converter 6, and are then quantised to one of 64 quantising levels, the discrete levels being converted to a 6-bit parallel-coded video signal on outputs SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF. The coding is shown in Table 1.

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TABLE 1

	6-bit Parallel-Coded Video Signal					
	3 least significant bits			3 most significant bits		
Quantizing Level	SA	SB	SC	SD	SE	SF
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	1	1	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0	0	0
5	1	0	1	0	0	0
6	0	1	1	0	0	0
7	1	1 .	1	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	1	0	0
9	1	0	0	1	0	0
	:	:	:	•	:	:
16	ò	ò	ò	ò	i	ò
	:	: -	:			
32	ò	ò	ó	ò	ò	i
:	] :	:	] :	•	:	:
56	0			i	· 1	1
1	:	:	:	:		
63	:	;	;	,		;
63	1	1	1	1	1	1

The parallel-coded video signals, corresponding to the Y-lines Y<sub>1</sub>, Y<sub>2</sub>, ... Y<sub>m</sub>, are grouped into two groups; a group containing the 3 least significant bits SA, SB, SC and a group containing the 3 most significant bits SD, SE, SF. These signals are registered in the A and B groups of the first memory MEM 1 as shown in Figure 1. Each of the A and B groups of these first memory circuits is made up of 3 parallel m-bit shift registers. The coded video signal SA<sub>1</sub>, SB<sub>2</sub>, SC<sub>3</sub>, SD<sub>4</sub>, SE<sub>4</sub>, is supplied to the first flip-flops a<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>1</sub>, d<sub>1</sub>, e<sub>1</sub>, f<sub>1</sub> of the 6 parallel first memory circuits a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>... a<sub>m</sub>; b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>... b<sub>m</sub>; c<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>... c<sub>m</sub>; d<sub>1</sub>, d<sub>2</sub>... d<sub>m</sub>; e<sub>1</sub>, e<sub>2</sub>, ... e<sub>m</sub>; f<sub>1</sub>, f<sub>2</sub>... f<sub>m</sub>; and is transferred to the next

flip-flop a<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>, d<sub>2</sub>, e<sub>2</sub>, f<sub>2</sub> by a shift signal. As a succession of shift signals is generated, the coded video signals SA<sub>1</sub>, SB<sub>1</sub>, SC<sub>1</sub>, SD<sub>2</sub>, SE<sub>3</sub>, SF, are registered successively into the A and B groups of the first memory circuit and are transferred in turn from left to right in the first memory circuits, by the shift signal, as seen in Figure 1.

The brightness control is carried out in two parts of one horizontal line period. The first brightness control period is the time which elapses between completion of registration of the parallel coded video signals in the first memory circuit MEM 1 and the end of the horizontal sweep retrace period, indicated as  $t_R$  in Figure 3. The second brightness control

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video signals from analogue-to-digital converter

6 are delayed by the set of delay circuits 9 and

by a second set signal generated at the end of the first brightness control period t, as

shown in Figure 3, the 3 most significant bits

1,396,486 width control signals CP4, CP4, CP, are applied registered in the B set of first memory circuits di, ei, fi. The other circuits of the scanto the brightness control circuits during respective thirds t<sub>e1</sub>, t<sub>e2</sub>, t<sub>e3</sub>, of each horizontal active scanning interval. The second width control signals CP<sub>d</sub>, CP<sub>e</sub>, CP<sub>t</sub> have the same ning apparatus of Figure 4 can be as shown in Figure 1. The X-line drive circuit 2 supplies in sequence a plurality of X-line selecting pulses each to one of a plurality of X-line conpulse width, as shown in Figure 5. ductors to be scanned during one horizontal The delayed 3 most significant bits SD SE, SF, are selected bit by bit by AND gates line period. GA, GB, GC, in response to the second width In the operation of the scanning apparatus shown in Figure 4, each bit of the 3 most control signals CP4, CP4, CP4. 75 significant bits SD, SE, SF is delayed by one During the first third of the horizontal drive scanning interval tel, only one width control of the delay circuits DL1, DL2, DL3; these is effective, that is, a logic "1". The second brightness control signals for the line X<sub>121</sub> are synthesised by AND gate GA<sub>1</sub> from the 60H delayed bit of the 3 most significant delay circuit have different delay times each a different integral multiple of one horizontal line period for example, the delay times can be 60H, 120H and 180H, respectively, where 80 bits SD<sub>1</sub> and the second width control signal CP<sub>4</sub>, and are fed to the Y-line driver D<sub>1</sub>. H is one horizontal line period. The X-line selecting circuit 20 selects four The corresponding X-line X<sub>121</sub>, is selected X-lines in sequence during one horizontal line by the X-line selecting circuit 20; the second period tx. One is selected during the horizontal brightness control for the 121th line X121 is sweep retrace period Tn, and each of the other thus effected during the period t<sub>01</sub>.

In the same manner, during the period t<sub>02</sub> three X-lines is selected during a third of the horizontal active scanning inteval, as at tal, ts2, ts3 shown in Figure 5. The X-line selecting the third brightness control signals for the circuit 20 can be provided by flip-flops, shift registers and gate circuits, in known configuraline X<sub>61</sub> are synthesised by AND gate GB, from the delayed bit of the 3 most significant bits SE, and the second width control signal When the 6-bit coded signals have been CP. In the X-line selecting circuit 20, the registered in the A and B first memory circorresponding X-line X<sub>61</sub> is selected. During period t<sub>63</sub>, the fourth brightness control signals for line X<sub>1</sub> are synthesised by cuits, the 3 least significant bits in the A set of first memory circuits ai, bi, ci are transferred simultaneously to the corresponding second memory circuits A<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>1</sub> through the first switching circuit Swj, by the first AND gate GC, from the delayed bit of the 3 most significant bits SF, and the second width control signal CP. In the X-line selecting set signal. circuit 20, the corresponding X-line X<sub>1</sub> is selected. Similarly, during the next horizontal line period, four X-lines  $X_{182}$ ,  $X_{122}$ ,  $X_{02}$  and  $X_2$  are selected sequentially by the X-line selected. During the horizontal sweep retrace period tres the second switching circuit is switched to the upper position as shown in Figure 2, and the first width control signals CPa, CPb, CPo ting circuit 20, as shown in Figure 5. By repeating this cycle of operation every horizonshown in Figure 5 are supplied to the brightness control circuits. I these circuits, the AND tal line period, the scanning of the whole matgates GA<sub>1</sub>, GB<sub>2</sub>, GC<sub>1</sub> synthesise the first brightness control signals for the Y-line driver D<sub>1</sub> rix panel is completed. Every picture element of the panel can be excited four times during as described above, each field period, and as the pulse width of In the X-line drive circuit 20, just after the excitation pulse is modulated 8 steps durthe coded video signals corresponding to the ing the horizontal sweep retrace period and 181th X-line, X<sub>181</sub>, for example, has been 4 steps during the horizontal active scanning registered in the first memory circuits, the Xperiod, 29 brightness levels as shown in Figure line selecting circuit 20 selects line X181. The 6 can be controlled. Thus, half-tone images first brightness control for line X181 is effected. with 29 brightness levels as shown in Figure The second, third and fourth brightness controls for the line X<sub>161</sub> are effected during the 6 can be reproduced. In this way, in the scaning apparatus shown active horizontal scan period, but delayed 60H, in Figure 4, the second memory circuits and

120H and 180H after the first brightness control, as shown in Figure 6.

Immediately after the end of the horizontal sweep retrace period t<sub>B</sub>, the delayed 3 most significant bits in the B set of first memory circuits di, ei, fi are transferred simultaneously to the second memory circuits A<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>, through the first switching circuit SW<sub>1</sub>, in response to the second set signal.

During the horizontal active scanning period  $t_{a1} + t_{a2} + t_{a3}$ , the second switching circuit is switched to the lower position. The second the AND gates of the brightness control circuits operate in a time sharing mode. The scanning apparatus can reproduce moving images with twenty-nine half-tone brightness levels through the second memory circuits and the AND gates of the brightness control circuits are in a 3 parallel m-bit circuit configuration.

When the scanning apparatus described is used with a DC-electroluminescent matrix type display panel, having a DC-electroluminescent layer disposed between X- and Y- line con-

ductor layers, the brightness of the display can be increased. The DC-electroluminescent layer in such a panel can be, for example, coppercoated zinc sulphide powder ZnS(Mn, Cu, Cl) in a plastics binder. The relation between the brightness (L) of such a panel and the pulse width (Pw) of the driving pulse under the condition of constant duty ratio can be shown as the equation:

## $L\alpha(P_w)^k$

where k is a constant not exceeding 1.

The brightness of the display can be increased by energising the panel two or more times, with a total driving time of 1H, during each field period, compared with continuous energisation over a time of 1H. If four driving pulses are supplied during each field period, as shown in Figure 6, the brightness of such DC-electroluminescent matrix panel can be doubled; the increase in the power consumption of the panel is very small since the total driving time of one field period is the same in

## WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A scanning apparatus for line-by-line 25 scanning of an x-y matrix display means comprising an X-line selecting means and Y-line drive means adapted to operate in response to picture element signals, wherein during one complete X-line scan said Y-line drive means operate to control the image intensity of all the elements of the X-line selected by said X-line selecting means a plurality of

35 2. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said Y-line drive means produce time modulated pulses for controlling the image intensity of each of said elements, and for each element of the X-line selected by said X-line selecting means, pulses of a lesser duration are produced in a first part of the respective X-line period, and pulses of a greater duration are produced in another part of the respective X-line period.

3. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said picture element signals comprise line signals with time intervals between consecutive line signals, and wherein one period of control by said Y-line drive means of the image intensity of said elements of the selected X-line includes a period corresponding to the respective said interval.

4. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 3 wherein said picture element signals are video signals and each said interval is the flyback interval between two consecutive video line signals.

5. A scanning apparatus in accordance with any of the preceding claims, comprising means for converting an analogue line-by-line input signal into digital form to provide said picture element signals and means for storing the digital form of the input signal.

6. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said storing means stores in quantised digital form the picture element signals of a complete line.

A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 6 wherein said storage means is a shift

8. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 7, said shift register comprising for each element of the selected X-line parallel register elements for registering quantised information in at least two groups of which one group in-cluded the digits of least significance.

9. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein said groups contain approximately equal numbers of digits.

10. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 8 or claim 9, and including group selecting switching means, for feeding the digits in a first of said two groups for each element of the selected X-line to the Y-line drive means during a first part of the respective X-line interval and the digits of the second of said two groups for each element of the selected X-line during a second part of the respective X-line interval.

11. A scanning apparatus in accordance with claim 10 and wherein said X-line drive means includes further register means, said group selecting switching means selectively feeding said digits in said first and second groups to

the said further register means.

12. A scanning apparatus for a matrix display panel having a plurality of picture elements at the intersections of X- and Y-line conductors, said scanning apparatus comprising: an X-line driving circuit coupled to said X-line conductors for supplying X-line selecting pulses to the X-line conductors to be scanned in predetermined sequence; a Yline driving circuit coupled to said Y-line conductors; a video signal generator for generating video signals; a timing signal generator coupled to said video signal generator, said X-line driving circuit and said Y-line driving circuit; a width control signal generator coupled to said timing signal generator for generating plural sets of width control signals; a first switching circuit coupled between said width control signal generator and said Y-line driving circuit for selecting which one of said plural sets of width control signals is to be supplied to said Y-line driving circuit at any instant; and an analogue-to-digital converter coupled between said video signal generator and said Y-line driving circuit for converting said video signals into parallel-coded video signals which are supplied to said Y-line driving circuit, wherein said Y-line driving circuit comprises; plural sets of first memory circuits for sequentially storing the portions of said parallel-coded video signals corresponding to one horizontal line period; a set of second memory circuits for

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holding parallel-coded video signals which are supplied from one of said plural sets of first memory circuits; a set of second switching circuits coupled between said plural sets of first memory circuits and said set of second memory circuits for connecting one of said plural sets of first memory circuits to said set of second memory circuits at any instant; and a set of brightness control circuits coupled between said set of second memory circuits and said Y-line conductors for supplying Y-line driving pulses to said Y-line conductors, wherein said first switching circuit and said set of second switching circuits are both switched plural times during one horizontal line period in synchronisation with switching signals from said timing signal generator so that Y-line driving pulses are changed plural times during one horizontal line period in response to both said plural sets of width control signals and said parallel-coded video signals held in said set of second memory circuits.

13. A scanning apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first switching circuit and said set of second switching circuits are both switched plural times during the time from the end of writing of said parallel-coded video signals into said plural sets of first memory circuits to the end of the following horizontal sweep retrace period of said video signals.

signals.

14. A scanning apparatus as claimed in claim

13, wherein said parallel-coded video signals
written into said plural sets of first memory
circuits are composed of least significant digits
and most significant digits said least significant digits being held in said set of second
memory circuits during the time from the
end of writing of said parallel-coded video
signals into said plural sets of first memory
circuits to the end of the following horizontal
sweep retrace period of said video signals, and
said most significant digits of said parallel-

coded video signals, being held in said set of second memory circuits during the remaining time interval of the respective horizontal line period.

15. A scanning apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a plurality of delay circuits coupled between said analogue-todigital converter and said plural sets of first memory circuits, one of said plural sets of first memory circuits being directly coupled to said analogue-to-digital converter, the remaining sets of said plural sets of first memory circuits being coupled to said analogue-to-digital converter through said plurality of delay circuits which have different delay times, each delay time being an integral multiple of one horizontal line period, said X-line driving circuit supplying in sequence a plurality of Xline selecting pulses, each to one of a plurality of X-line conductors to be scanned during one horizontal line period in sychronisation with said switching signals from said timing signal generator.

16. A scanning apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said least significant digits of said parallel-coded video signals are directly written into said one set of said plural sets of first memory circuits, and said most significant digts of said parallel-coded video signals are written into said remaining sets of said plural sets of first memory circuits through said delay circuits.

17. A scanning apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

18. A display means including an apparatus in accordance with any of the preceding claims.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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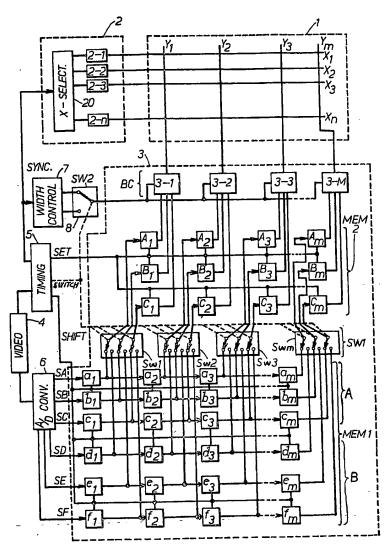
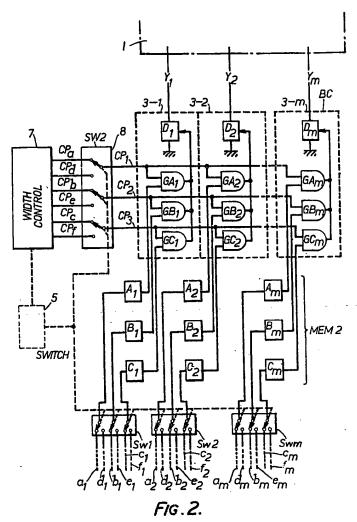


FIG . /.

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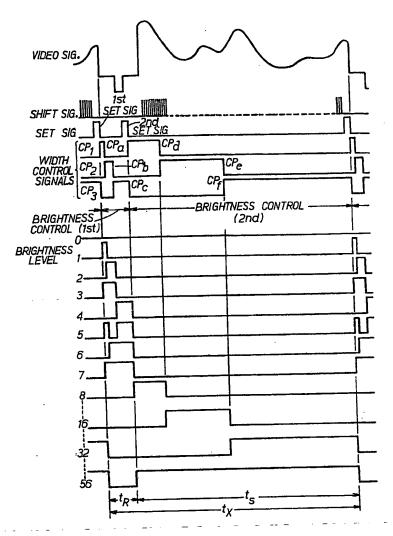


FIG. 3.

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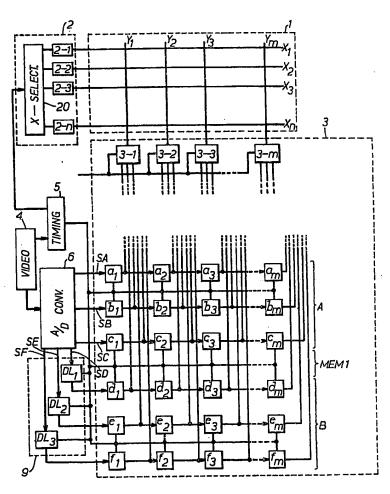


FIG .4.

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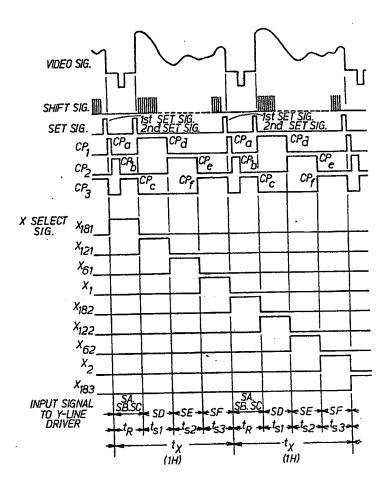


FIG. 5.

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